

# NOAA's National Climatic Data Center



## News Highlights



Vol. 3, Is. 2 Spring 2009

### Inside this Issue Table of Contents

#### The Director's Corner

##### Climate Change and The Plant Sector: A Growing Interest

#### Workshops

##### Climate, Weather and Tourism Workshop

##### The Climate and Sustainability: U.S. Department of Commerce Services for the Business Community Work- shop

#### Product News and Updates

##### NCDC Paleoclimatology Partnership with Fire History Community

NOAA's  
National  
Climatic  
Data Center  
Federal  
Climate Complex  
151 Patton Avenue  
Asheville, N.C.  
28801  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov)

##### *Protecting the Past*

The National Climatic Data Center's News Highlights is a publication for NCDC data users. Address comments or article suggestions to:  
[ncdc-outreach@noaa.gov](mailto:ncdc-outreach@noaa.gov)

#### The Director's Corner

##### Greetings to our Data Users:

##### Climate Change and The Plant Sector: A Growing Interest

NOAA's National Climatic Data Center helped organize and sponsor a workshop entitled, "Climate Change and the Plant Sector: A Growing Interest" which was held at Asheville, North Carolina's Grove Park Inn on November 17 and 18, 2008. The workshop, which received additional organizational support from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the North Carolina Arboretum Society, and the University Corporation of Atmospheric Research, targeted landscape architects, golf course architects, nurseries, and similar industries. This event provided an important first step in building a critical information bridge between the climate science community and the numerous, diverse business sectors and public interests that rely on the health and well-being of plants. There were 60 registered workshop attendees, and 100 participants at the reception commemorating the completion of the U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) on Sunday, November 16. The workshop website is:

<http://www.agrowinginterest.com/index.htm>.

Thomas R. Karl



Workshop attendees (left to right): George Briggs, Director, North Carolina Arboretum Society; Robert Dolibois, Executive Vice President, American Nursery and Landscape Association; Thomas R. Karl, Director, NOAA's NCDC.



CLIMATE CHANGE & THE PLANT SECTOR:  
A GROWING INTEREST

November 17-18, 2008  
The Grove Park Inn - Asheville, North Carolina

Landscape Architecture - Golf Course Design and Maintenance - Conservation - Horticulture  
Gardening - Nursery Management - Arboreta - Botanical Gardens - Public Land Management



## Workshops

### Climate, Weather and Tourism Workshop

Eileen Shea, Neal Lott, and Greg Hammer represented NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) at the Climate, Weather and Tourism in North Carolina: Issues and Opportunities Workshop held at East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, NC, November 14 and 15, 2008. ECU's Center for Sustainable Tourism, North Carolina Sea Grant and the NCDC were workshop sponsors. Tourism is a major economic driver for North Carolina with \$17.1 Billion in travel expenditures, \$4.2 Billion in payroll, and employing 198,900 residents. Despite the fundamental influence climate and weather have on tourism services across the state, there is limited understanding of the relationship between these phenomena and day-to-day business operations and long-term economic and environmental sustainability. The workshop was successful and promises to be a springboard for collaboration between tourism groups, government agencies, including NCDC, and academia, especially ECU. Approximately 70 people were in attendance. The workshop's website is: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/sustainabletourism/Climate-Tourism-Workshop-2008.cfm>.



### The Climate and Sustainability: U. S. Department of Commerce Services for the Business Community Workshop

The Climate and Sustainability: U.S. Department of Commerce Services for the Business Community Workshop, co-sponsored by NOAA and the International Trade Administration (ITA), was held April 1, 2009, in Washington, DC. The one-day event contained panel discussions on NOAA Climate Services and Sustainable Manufacturing with NOAA business customers sharing the importance and usefulness of NOAA data and services. Dr. Jane Lubchenco, the newly appointed Under Secretary of Commerce and Administrator of NOAA, provided the welcome address. NCDC personnel played an active role in the workshop. Thomas R. Karl gave a lunch presentation titled, "Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States," and Eileen Shea presented during the NOAA Climate Services panel. Ms. Shea also served as the workshop facilitator. Approximately 100 people attended with more than half of the attendees coming from the business sector. There is interest from ITA and the business community in holding a similar workshop on the West Coast in the near future.



Eileen Shea, Workshop Facilitator; Tamara Houston, NCDC



Thomas R. Karl, NCDC Director



## Product News and Updates

### NCDC Paleoclimatology Partnership with Fire History Community

The International Multiproxy Paleofire Database (IMPD) is an online archive of fire history data derived from natural proxies, such as, tree-ring fire scars and charcoal in lake sediments. It is available at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/impd/paleofire.html>. The IMPD was created in response to interest and support from the fire history community for a central, permanent, and publicly accessible archive of fire history data, particularly in light of recent record-breaking fire seasons and widely altering fire regimes throughout the United States. It was developed and is maintained by NCDC's Paleoclimatology Branch, with guidance from an advisory board of fire history and paleoclimate scientists from around the world. This growing body of fire history data provides opportunities for investigating the role of fire in ecosystems and the feedbacks that link fire, climate, vegetation, and management decisions. To make these data easily accessible to the fire history community, the Paleoclimatology Branch partnered with the Fire Research and Management Exchange System (FRAMES). FRAMES is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program to facilitate the exchange of information and transfer of technology between wildland fire researchers, managers, and other stakeholders. Paleoclimatology staff are acting as the content managers for the Fire History Subject Area of their web portal. The Paleoclimatology Branch is collaborating with the United States Forest Service, University of Arizona, University of Tennessee, and Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research, Inc., among others, to improve upon existing fire history data analysis tools, as well as to create new tools that will provide better decision support for land managers. In particular, land managers need to prioritize wildland fire mitigation by considering how fire regimes have changed through time, and the IMPD can provide conference proceedings, presentations and scoping papers.



Photo Credit: Peter Brown, Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research, Inc.